

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Reconsideration in view of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested. The drawings have been amended by the addition of a new figure (FIG. 1d) which more explicitly illustrates panels with overlapping edges. No new matter is being added with this amendment. The term "ruggedized" has been deleted from the claims.

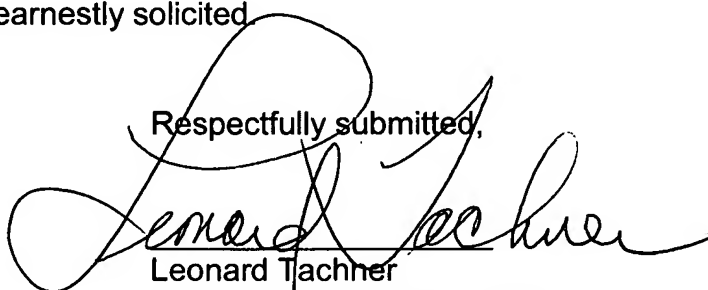
The original claims were rejected based on 35 USC 102 or 103 primarily over Schwenk et al (U.S. 5,294,748). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schwenk et al includes a self-supporting rack separate from the metal case shielding. Such a rack would make it impossible to enclose a tower computer to which Applicant's claims are explicitly directed. Moreover, Schwenk et al fail to disclose any means for accommodating cooling air flow as required by computers. Schwenk et al also fail to disclose or suggest any way of securing a computer inside the case or to provide for filtering of data signals or AC power passing into or out of a computer. More significantly, Schwenk et al do not disclose or suggest the use of non-standard or high-impact connectors which as explained at page 12, line 25 to page 13, line 4 of the specification, both prevent non-EMI hardened devices to be plugged into the computer and connector damage which could lead to signal leakage.

AMENDMENT Continued
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Any allegation that such features are obvious features without any factual support in the form of prior art publications, does no more than rely on hindsight based from Applicant's disclosure which is, of course, clearly an improper basis upon which to refuse allowance of patent claims. Therefore, unless the noted features can be shown to be explicitly shown in the prior art, it is believed that pending claims 1-13 merit an allowance and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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